

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article XI, of the Constitution of Tennessee, relative to initiative and referendum.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, A majority of all members of each house concurring as shown by yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed to amend Article XI of the Constitution of Tennessee by adding the following appropriately numbered section:

Section ____.(a) Notwithstanding the legislative authority reserved for the general assembly, the people reserve the initiative power, which is the power to propose laws and enact or reject them at an election independently of the general assembly. An initiative law may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to ten percent (10%) or more of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for governor at the election next preceding the filing of the petition.

An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed law. A proposed law shall embrace one (1) subject only. No more than one (1) proposed law embracing the same subject may be considered at any election.

An initiative petition shall be filed with the secretary of state not less than four (4) months before the election at which the proposed law is to be voted upon. If the initiative petition is filed at least four (4) months before the election at which it is to be

voted on, the secretary of state shall submit the same to the vote of the people at the next statewide regular election.

(b) The general assembly may order a referendum on any general bill.

(c) The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by the people or on general bills ordering a referendum. Any election on a referendum measure shall be held at the next statewide regular election, unless otherwise ordered by the general assembly. Any measure initiated by the people or referred to the people as herein provided shall take effect and become the law if it is approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon. Such measure shall be in operation on and after the thirtieth (30th) day after the election in which it is approved.

(d) This section shall not be construed to deprive any member of the general assembly of the right to introduce any measure.

(e) This section is self-executing but legislation may be enacted to facilitate its operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment be referred to the One Hundredth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published by the secretary of state six (6) months prior to the November, 1996, general election in at least one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in each of the cities of Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and the Tri-Cities area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of State.